

Introduced by

Senators Piepkorn, Bekkedahl, Rust

Representatives Hatlestad, Longmuir, J. Olson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a postproduction royalty oversight program; and to provide a report to
3 the energy development and transmission committee.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Postproduction royalty oversight program - Report.**

- 8 1. The commissioner shall establish an ombudsmen program providing technical
9 assistance and support to mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies
10 relating to royalty payment issues.
- 11 2. The commissioner may contract for ombudsmen to be a resource for technical
12 assistance and followup on royalty payment issues.
- 13 3. The program may provide technical education, support, and outreach on royalty
14 payment-related matters in coordination with other entities.
- 15 4. The commissioner may contract with local individuals, deemed trustworthy by the
16 mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies, to be ombudsmen. The
17 commissioner is not subject to the provisions of chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for
18 the services of ombudsmen.
- 19 5. The names of landowners, mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies that
20 receive assistance under the program are not subject to section 44-04-18 and
21 section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.
- 22 6. The commissioner shall submit expenses related to the implementation of the program
23 to the industrial commission for reimbursement.

- 1 7. By June first of each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall provide a report to
- 2 the energy development and transmission committee.